

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10 are pending. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for priority under section 119 and note that a certified copy of the priority document has been received.

The Applicants also appreciate receiving a copy of form PTO-1449, on which the Examiner has initialed all listed items.

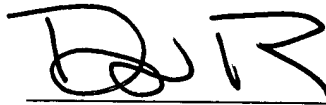
Claims 1-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Owens et al (US 6,059,483). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 as discussed below.

The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 9 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been canceled and its limitations have been incorporated into claim 1. Therefore, claim 1, as well as claims 2-8 and 10 that depend thereon, are now allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DGP', is written over a horizontal line.

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